



WFP GHANA Country Brief

APR, 2019.

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Ghana is a lower middle-income and food-deficit country, with an estimated population of 28.2 million, and a gross domestic product per capita of USD 3980.20 in 2016. Despite progress in reducing acute malnutrition and stunting at the national level in recent years, high rates of poverty rate of 21.4 percent and stunting persist in the Northern Savannah Ecological Zone.

WFP's long-term vision in Ghana includes improved food security and reduction of stunting and micronutrient deficiencies in the northern regions. This will be achieved through technical and policy support for the scale up of nutrition-sensitive social protection programming, as well as through public-private sector partnerships.

WFP has been present in Ghana since 1963



Population: **28 million.**

2017 Human Development Index: **140 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

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Main photo

Credit: Vera Boohene (Communication officer)

Caption:Beneficiaries harvesting OFSP vines in the Bole, NR.

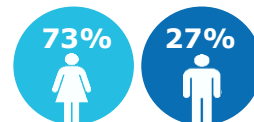
In Numbers

45,000 beneficiaries targeted for Nutrition support in 2019.

22,020 smallholder farmers targeted for capacity strengthening and market linkages in 2019.

US\$0.2 m six months (May – October 2019) net funding requirements.

10,237 people assisted in April 2019



Operational Updates

- The first cycle of distribution under the CSP ended on 22 April and 100 percent of the planned children (2,012) children were reached with GrowNut. This was the last balance of GrowNut from the quantities left from 2018 consignment, and it was distributed in only three districts out of the seven. A total of 10,237 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) out of 11,464 planned (89 percent) were also reached with SuperCereal, vegetable oil and salt. There were nutrition and health education and targeted counselling for the beneficiaries as part of Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) activities led by Ghana Health Service
- A radio drama dissemination workshop (using radio for promoting integrated agriculture, nutrition & public health services) was organised by WFP. The workshop was to enable a presentation on research which evaluated whether health/nutrition education via radio could improve maternal knowledge and stimulate positive behavioural changes in attitudes and practices. The research was conducted at Savelugu and Saboba using Central Gonja as a control district. Apart from the nutrition indicators where the control district: Central Gonja scored lower malnutrition rate probably due to WFP's Stunting Prevention/SBCC programme, all others-listening to radio, breastfeeding, the control district were worse off.
- As part of the activities under the Post-Harvest Handling Technology Project, a team comprising WFP, SARI and GRATIS was in Manga, SARI Agric Station from 16 to 17 April, 2019 to short-list the finalists after an objective and rigorous evaluation process. Each woman was interviewed on her knowledge on animal rearing and her willingness and ability to take care of donkeys, and how to put them to profitable use. Afterwards, the women came in turns to climb the donkeys and move with them. This was to help the team to know if really, they have practical experience handling donkeys. At the end of the exercise the team could select the 20 women farmers among the 50 preselected women.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2019)

2019 Total Requirement (in USD)	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
16 m	7.7 m	0.2 m

Strategic Result 2: Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 1: Addressing the triple burden of malnutrition Vulnerable populations including children and women of reproductive age in high burden regions have improved nutritious status in line with National targets.

Activity:

- Provide cash and vouchers for specialized nutritious foods and/or micronutrient-dense fresh foods for vulnerable children aged 6-23 months, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women under government safety nets, and support the Ghana Health Service about social and behaviour change communication to promote healthy diets in high burden areas

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food systems

Strategic Outcome 2: Targeted populations and communities in Ghana benefit from more efficient, inclusive and resilient food systems that support nutrition value chains by 2030

Activities:

- Provide technical support for community and industrial production of fortified flour and for food safety and quality assurance. This includes technical support on food safety and quality for up to 30 community milling and blending women's groups, and financial and technical support for two industrial fortified flour producers in Brong Ahafo and Ashanti regions
- Provide support and Link smallholder farmers with the One District, One Warehouse programme by providing training and equipment to minimize post-harvest losses and facilitate quality assurance and market linkages with processors and institutional customers (SMS: Smallholder agricultural market support activities)

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome 3: Local and national institutions have enhanced capacity to target and manage food security, nutrition and social protection programmes by 2030

Activity:

- Provide technical support, including through South-South cooperation, for the national school meals programme, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the National Disaster Management Organization, the Food and Drugs Authority and the Ghana Health Service to optimize the nutritional quality of school meals; food security monitoring; the early-warning system; disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness, food safety and quality, and food-based dietary guidelines.

Strategic Result 6: policy coherence.

Strategic Outcome 4: Government efforts to achieve zero hunger by 2030 are supported by advocacy and coherent policy frameworks

Activity:

- Advocate for the promulgation and enforcement of policies and legislation on school feeding, gender equality, nutrition, food safety, weights, measures and standards, smallholder-friendly public procurement and market support (CSI: Institutional capacity strengthening activities)

Monitoring.

- Monitoring of health facilities and retail shops by programme staff continued in all the seven implementing districts, including the conflict zone (Chereponi district). In all, 38 out of the 50 implementing sites were visited. Support was provided to retailers on both biometric and manual redemption processes. Health staff were also educated on the eligibility criteria for the cycle as there were challenges during the enrolment of beneficiaries and so not all beneficiaries received e-vouchers. Remote support was provided to retailers and health staff continuously in all the 50 sites to ensure successfully exercise.
- Staff took the opportunity during the monitoring to conduct a survey on the impact of the stunting prevention programme on retailers' and beneficiaries' livelihoods, wellbeing and female retailers' role in household decision making. In all, 14 retailers and 18 beneficiaries were interviewed.

Challenges

- Depreciation of the Cedi against the US dollar has affected the purchasing power of most Ghanaians, especially the poor and vulnerable. A review of the transfer values to beneficiaries must be undertaken to provide transfers that are commensurate with the price increases.
- GN Bank who was the lead financial service provider for WFP Ghana was recently downgraded to a savings and loan institution caused by the banks' inability to meet the minimum capital requirements set by Bank of Ghana. Because of this, WFP has dissolved its contract with the Bank and in the process of striking an agreement with Ecobank to handle its financial delivery to beneficiaries.

Partnerships

- WFP Ghana maintains an active collaboration with government partners, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, development partners and other United Nations Agencies, particularly the Rome-based Agencies, to ensure the harmonization of activities in food security and nutrition.
- WFP will continue to participate in working groups in key sectors such as Education, Social Protection, Agriculture, Health and Nutrition. WFP also collaborates with the National Development Planning Commission to advocate for increased investment in school feeding and nutrition using the Ghana Cost Benefit Analysis for school feeding, and the Ghana Cost of Hunger Africa Analysis.

Funding opportunities for CSP

Canada, China, EU – DEVCO Funds & Foundations (WFP 2030 Fund etc), Germany (BMZ), AfDB, Ghana - Government Counterpart Cash Contributions, Japan, KOICA, Private Sector and World Bank.